GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1767
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2015
WASTE LAND
Shetti Shri Raju alias Devappa Anna

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of waste land in the country, State-wise;

(b) the area of waste land in acres made cultivable during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the programmes formulated by the National Wasteland Development Board in this regard during the said period; and

(d) the funds allocated and released to the State Governments and its utilisation for development of waste land in the country including in North-Eastern Region during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) : The details of wasteland in the country State-wise is at Annexure-I.

(b) : In order to understand the dynamics of wastelands through comparison of spatial statistics a project on Wasteland Change Analysis between 2005-06 and 2008-09 had been assigned to National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad by the Department of Land Resources. The findings of the project have been published as Wastelands Atlas of India 2011. As per Wastelands Atlas of India-2011, the total area of wasteland that has been reduced and put to productive use from 2005-06 to 2008-09 is 5240.78 sq. kms. The State/ UT wise details are at Annexure-II.

(c) & (d): Government of India had set up the National Wastelands Development Board in 1985 under the Ministry of Environment & Forests. Later a separate Department of Wastelands Development in the Ministry of Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation was created in 1992 and the National Wastelands Development Board (NWDB) was transferred to it. In April, 1999, Department of Wastelands Development (DoWD) was renamed as the Department of Land Resources to act as the nodal agency for land resources management. The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development has been implementing an area development programme called Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) with effect from 26.02.2009, for development of rainfed/ degraded areas including wastelands. The State-wise details of funds released and utilised during the last three years and the current year under Integrated Watershed Management Programme in the country including in North-Eastern Region are at Annexure-III.